Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Mount Rushmore National Memorial Society was incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1930 for the purpose of raising funds for the carving of a great sculpture and is now celebrating its 75th anniversary; and,

Whereas, The society is recognized by the National Park Service as one of the oldest support organizations in the nation known as Friends of the National Park Service; and,

Whereas, The creation of the sculpture was the work of Gutzon Borglum, a founding member, but was a dream shared by charter society members Doan Robinson, Congressman William Williamson, and John Boland whose determination and commitment combined forces to complete this impossible project known to the world as Mount Rushmore; and,

Whereas, This dedication to world-class facilities launched one of the largest private sector efforts ever successfully completed, the Mount Rushmore Preservation Fund, and the state of South Dakota proudly participated with a contribution of $2 million toward this massive effort; and,

Whereas, The result of these efforts have been visitors to South Dakota and Mount Rushmore National Memorial who experience a completely accessible facility to enjoy the Shrine of Democracy, the world-class Lincoln Borglum Museum, Presidential Trail, Information Center, Avenue of Flags, Grand View Terrace and the greatly expanded amphitheater and parking facility that welcomes nearly 3 million visitors in a manner that South Dakota can be proud; and,

Whereas, Volunteer leadership remains the heart and soul of preserving and protecting Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and the dedication in 2005 is stronger than ever:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 12, 2005, as

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL SOCIETY DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fourth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State